HAMPTON UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

National Summit on Marriage, Parenting and Families

Sacred Bonds — Transforming Marriages, Empowering Parents and Strengthening Families

SEPTEMBER 29–30, 2009

NCAAMP
The National Center on African American Marriages and Parenting
AS CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES, WE ARE GATHERED HERE AT THE HISTORIC EMANCIPATION OAK TREE, A NATIONAL SYMBOL OF FREEDOM AND HOPE, TO PROCLAIM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE REVITALIZATION OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES AND TO INVITE OUR FELLOW AMERICANS TO JOIN US IN THIS MIGHTY ENDEAVOR.

To honor our elders and ancestors who through their legacy of strong marriages, parenting, and families allow and inspire us to articulate this vision as we stand here today,

To save future generations from the destructive consequences of failed marriages and broken homes,

To work together to fan the embers of hope in men and women for life-long, healthy marriage, and

To equip parents to lead strong families and raise hopeful and socially responsible children.

TO THESE ENDS

We, Religious Leaders, invite all Houses of Faith to join us in the pursuit of effective ministry to marriages, families, and parents and to prepare our youth for healthy relationships and life-long marriage.

We, Governmental Leaders, invite colleagues and citizens from every political party to engage in renewed efforts to pursue laws and public policies that promote the well-being of marriages and families.

We, Scholars and Educators, invite our colleagues to join us in on-going research on healthy relationships, healthy marriages and effective parenting; and to ever improving curriculum for America's classrooms, board rooms, living rooms, and Houses of Faith.

We, Media Leaders, invite artists, filmmakers, entertainers, journalists, and writers to join us in acknowledging the power of our craft in shaping cultural values and to shift our talents to reinforce the values of commitment, faithfulness, and self-sacrifice in the pursuit of love, family, and legacy.

We, Leaders in Commerce and Business, invite the corporate community to join us in recognizing that relational wellness — personal, professional, marriage, and family — profoundly impacts the productivity and vitality of our business enterprises and henceforth are determined to pursue practices and benefits that will encourage the relational wellness of our employees.

We, Youth Leaders, recognizing in ourselves and in our peers’ generation a yearning for authentic relationships and lasting love, determine to renew in our generation the vision and hope for life-long healthy marriage and the legacy of family.

AS ONE

We declare our support for city leaders in their responsibility to bring the revitalization of marriage and family to their local communities.

KEEPING IN MIND THAT WE

Do not desire to see anyone pressured to remain in unsafe and abusive homes, and Acknowledge that we champion this cause not only out of our successes but out of our personal experiences of failure and loss.

WE HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS

To renew America’s vision and hope for the institution of marriage,

To increase marital satisfaction,

To increase the involvement of fathers and mothers in the lives of their children,

To increase parenting effectiveness,

To decrease the out-of-wedlock birth rate, and

To reduce the divorce rate.
Dear Summit Leaders,

Welcome to the historic National Summit on Marriage, Parenting and Families. We are so pleased to have you join our Hampton Family and share our beautiful Home by the Sea.

As we come together in the spirit of love, collaboration and concern for the well-being of children, families and our nation, we will focus on identifying viable solutions to the urgent crisis in marriage and families in our country. We will begin to develop a national agenda for the revitalization of marriage and family in America. By doing so, we will demonstrate our commitment to this goal. We will also identify support bases to achieve that agenda.

As we do this important work, we will form new collaborative relationships and partnerships with some of the most gifted and influential leaders and institutions in our country. Together, we will create a space that allows for the free flow expression of new and diverse ideas.

My hope is that we will leave this Summit with a collective strategy for improving marriage and family relationships and increasing the proportion of children raised in married parent households and being parented well. I also pray that we will have excited optimism and confidence in our country that the future of marriage and families is promising as a result of our time together here — at our Home by the Sea.

Thank you for giving your time, talents and passions to this most important mission. We will do our best to ensure that you enjoy being a part of the Hampton Experience.

In Service to our God and our Nation.

Sincerely,

Linda Malone-Colon, Ph.D.
Summit Chair

Greetings,

Welcome to the National Summit on Marriage, Parenting and Families hosted by Hampton University. Our nation is experiencing crises which rival some of the major events in our history. Not only are we experiencing a financial crisis, but we are also experiencing a family crisis. We, at Hampton University, strongly believe that the family is the foundation of our society’s social structure. When the family is endangered, as recent statistics suggest, our society is in danger. Therefore, the National Summit on Marriage, Parenting and Families is needed now more than ever before.

Realizing that there is power in numbers, I hope that you will take full advantage of the camaraderie of fellow leaders and scholars during this public conversation about marriage, parenting and families. You will find it enriching to connect with colleagues from across the nation to engage in dialog. As you interact with one another this week, please know that Hampton University looks forward to providing you with a positive and pleasant experience.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely,

William R. Harvey
President

Dear Summit Leaders,

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In Service to our God and our Nation.

Sincerely,

Linda Malone-Colon, Ph.D.
Summit Chair
Dear Friends,

On behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I extend greeting to everyone attending the National Summit on Marriage, Parenting and Families at Hampton. I commend the organizers of this event for their hard work and dedication to making this year’s event a success. This conference will serve as an inspiration to transform marriages, empower parents and strengthen families. I commend you for your dedication to this noble Parenting for your continued service to Virginia’s communities.

I also want to welcome those of you who have traveled great distances to be here. While you are in Hampton, I hope you will find time to take advantage of the many opportunities Virginia’s eastern region has to offer. Hampton’s location puts many Virginia’s historic and natural resources within easy reach. Whether touring the local area, taking a walk on the beach or taking an excursion to the historic triangle of Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown you are sure to experience Virginia’s hospitality.

Best wishes for an enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

Office of the Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
210 North 3rd Street
Richmond, VA 23219

September 29, 2009

Greetings,

On behalf of the City Council of Hampton, I extend heartiest congratulations and greeting on the occasion of the National Summit on Marriage, Parenting, and Families. I commend you your leadership in providing a forum for the discussion of solutions to the current issues and challenges facing the American family.

Once again, congratulations and best wishes for a productive and inspiring summit.

Sincerely,

Molly Joseph Ward
Mayor

Office of the Mayor
City of Hampton
22 Lincoln Street
Hampton VA 23669

September 29, 2009

“Oldest Continuous English-Speaking Settlement in America — 1610”

council@hampton.gov  mward@hampton.gov

Molly Joseph Ward
Mayor

“Oldest Continuous English-Speaking Settlement in America — 1610”

council@hampton.gov  mward@hampton.gov
Greetings,

It is a pleasure to extend special greetings to you on the occasion of the National Summit on Marriage, Parenting and Families at Hampton University. As you know, the fragmentation of the family in America has risen to an alarming level. Children who lack the care of both parents on a daily basis are at a much higher risk of just about everything bad that can happen to children. That is why we are very enthusiastic to see Hampton University and its National Center on African American Marriages and Parenting host a major summit on this issue.

Your prominence as a public leader, your expertise on social matters, and the respect that you garner in the national and international arena means that your voice and participation in this summit could make all the difference. Your voice will contribute to a collective effort to identify social change action items that offer viable solutions for addressing national major concerns.

This is your opportunity to participate in a historic and groundbreaking national conversation about the status of marriage and family and to ignite a national dialogue on revitalizing marriage and family in America.

We anticipate that the summit will inspire all that participate in it to take action; both individually and collectively to transform marriages, empower parents and strengthen families. Thank you for participating in this hugely important event.

You have our best wishes for a productive summit. We wish you continued success in your important work.

Sincerely,

Tony Dungy   S. Truett Cathy

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Greetings,

The Hampton University Ministers’ Conference is delighted to offer our full and unequivocal support to Hampton University and to Dr. Linda Malone-Colon to partner in the development of a National Center for African American Marriages and Families (NCAAMF); an effort that aims to strengthen the institutions of marriage and family in the African American community and to the global society at-large.

As the largest and oldest historically Black interdenominational gathering of ministers and pastors in the country, representing over 4,000 churches, serving some 10,000 ministers and reaching upwards of one million congregants, the Hampton University Ministers’ Conference has been (since its inception in 1914) deeply committed to raising awareness about and fostering discussion on critical issues facing the Black church and the communities it serves. Fulfilling this important aspect of our mission, the Hampton University Ministers’ Conference recognizes the importance of the NCAAMF and its research, and therefore welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the NCAAMF in its dissemination of information to the African American community and to global society at-large.

As University Chaplain and Executive Secretary of the Ministers’ Conference, I am pleased to have become closely associated with Dr. Linda Malone-Colon as a University colleague and a partner in this project, but also to make significant contributions on a national level to strengthening Black marriages and families.

The Hampton University Ministers’ Conference resolves to strengthen its commitment and further the cause of the NCAAMF. In concert, we will work together to develop strategies and programs that raise awareness about building healthy marriages and families in the Black community. Furthermore, we are committed to:
a) addressing the challenges and problems Black clergy face in confronting issues of marriage and family in their respective churches; b) disseminating information concerning the types of technical and other assistance that Black clergy need to implement marriage programs in their churches and c) addressing the spiritual/religious factors that Black clergy believe contribute most to strengthening Black marriages.

Therefore, as Executive Secretary to the conference and on behalf of all conference officers, The Hampton University Ministers’ Conference is pleased and proud to endorse and support the tireless efforts of Hampton University through Dr. Linda Malone-Colon in addressing the critical importance of healthy marriages and families for the greater well-being of African American adults, children, churches and society at large.

Sincerely,

Rev. Debra L. Haggins O’Bryant
UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/TREASURER
HAMPTON UNIVERSITY MINISTERS’ CONFERENCE
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Agenda

Tuesday, September 29

8:00 – 8:30 am  Continental Breakfast: Student Center Ballroom
8:30 – 9:30 am  Opening Session: Student Center Ballroom
9:30 – 10:50 am  Session 1: Student Center Ballroom

THE STATE OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY IN AMERICA: Infusing the Facts about Marriage and Family into American Culture
Marriage and Family Scholars discuss research findings on the status of marriage, parenting and families and the consequences of the weakening of family relationships in the U.S. They will also explore creative and effective ways of moving marriage and family research evidence from academic journals and books to classrooms and to the American public.

11:05 – 11:20 am  Signing of Hampton Proclamation: Emancipation Oak
11:30 – 1:00 pm  Luncheon: Convocation Center
Keynote Presentation and Marriage Index Release

1:15 – 2:45 pm  Session 2: Student Center Ballroom
THE RISING GENERATION: The Pain and the Promise — A Look at the Hopes and Fears of the Next Marrying and Family Forming Generation
A candid, thoughtful and heartfelt conversation with young adults about: 1) their relationship experiences and observations of relationships; 2) their views on the significance of marriage and parenting; 3) their ideas and choices for their future; and 4) what they and their elders can do to strengthen family relationships.

2:45 – 2:55 pm  Break
2:55 – 4:25 pm  Session 3: Student Center Ballroom

FAITH, FAMILY AND COVENANT BONDS: What Does God Say About Marriage and Family?
Religious Leaders from diverse religious traditions (Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Jewish) discuss: 1) the meaning and purpose of marriage and family; 2) the role of God in family relationships; and 3) what spiritual leaders can do to inspire hope and faith among Americans and that marriage and families can be revived.

4:25 – 4:40 pm  Break
4:40 – 6:10 pm  Session 4: Student Center Ballroom

MEDIA AND CULTURE: How media shapes the unwritten rules on sexuality, love and family.
Media leaders discuss ways that various and alternative media outlets might help to promote and support healthy marriages and families while still protecting their bottom line.

7:30 – 10:00 pm  Gala Dinner: Convocation Center
Keynote Presentation Entertainment

Wednesday, September 30

8:00 – 9:00 am  Continental Breakfast: Student Center Ballroom
9:00 – 10:30 am  Session 5: Student Center Ballroom

THE POLITICS OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY: Everything’s Political and Personal
Political and legal experts discuss the role of politics and legal matters in national efforts to strengthen marriages and families, including: 1) their view of marriage and family in legal policy and the courtroom; 2) how the political rights’ focus on personal responsibility and the political lefts’ focus on structural problems are both needed to revive marriage and family in the U.S.; 3) the role of personal relationship losses and failures in policy makers own willingness and capacity to address the crisis in marriage and family; and 4) how people with political differences can come together for this common cause.

10:30 – 10:40 am  Break
10:40 – 12:10 pm  Session 6: Student Center Ballroom

THE MOVEMENT TO REVITALIZE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY IN AMERICA: Leading the Way and Practicing what You Preach.
Marriage, parenting and family movement leaders discuss: 1) the marriage movement that is currently underway and how to expand, including consideration of Summit developments; 2) how movement leaders can work together in order to have a lasting and meaningful impact on marriage and family in America.

12:10 – 1:30 pm  Closing Session and Lunch
and identified as emotionally disturbed. He is committed to increasing also a firm supporter of enhancing the quality of education for inner-
in mentoring and improving the life of disadvantaged youth. Karega is community that created opportunities for his peers to become involved Hampton University and established relationships in the Hampton Roads education in Washington, D.C. with the Teach for America program. direction he needed to succeed amidst socioeconomic stressors. He retired in 1969 after having completed a long list of career-
level positions, including Information Technology Solutions, Computer Sciences Corporation and Hampton University. In January 2004, he was appointed as the Interim President of Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, America’s oldest historically Black institution of higher learning, a position he held until July 2007. He has given back to his community in numerous ways, including service on the Board of Directors of the Greater Hampton Roads’ Boys’ & Girls’ Club. past president of the Hampton Rotary, Club. Board of Directors of the Peters Woods School, Peters Woods, Mississippi; Board of Directors of Hampton University Chapters, Wŏoshack, WV; and Board of Directors of Achievable Dream, Inc., Newport News, VA. Additionally, he has served on two gubernatorial commissions for the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as on a director in Baptist churches in Virginia and Pennsylvania. He serves on the City of Hampton Industrial Development Authority and the Hampton Federal Area Development Authority. His education includes B.S., Hampton University, M.A.; George Washington University, Senior course, Naval War College, and a Master of Arts in Government, Harvard University and honorary Doctor of Laws, Campbell University.

KAREGA BAILEY

Karega Bailey, a native of Sacramento, California, is a successful product of collective contributions from the Sacramento community. Mentoring services of The 100 Black Men of Sacramento and family services offered by the Greater Sacramento Family Support Center, both organizations, under the guidance of Karega Bailey, has shown promising success. Bailey holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Bailey earned his Master of Science in Public Administration degree from the University of Southern California. He is currently a Doctoral Candidate at Nova Southeastern University, where he is enrolled in the Doctoral Program in Public Administration.

Edwin C. Bass serves as President of Urban Initiatives. He has outstanding credentials, extensive business experience, and a strategic perspective. Most importantly, he is spiritually centered and passionate about the future. Those who know him well can attest to his intellectual competencies but they are more profoundly impressed by his deep sense of humility, integrity, humility, and honor for the things of God. His Urban Initiatives is the vision of President Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. Created to develop and implement solutions that address the pan academic achievement, financial disenfranchisement, high unemployment, soaring crime levels, the desperate state of the black man, the breakdown of the family and financial literacy that hampers our cities.

A native of western Pennsylvania, Edwin Bass is an alumnus of Colgate University and the and the University of Pennsylvania, in Chandigarh, India and pursued graduate studies at Harvard University. In the secular world, he served as Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Blue Cross Blue Shield. Bass is the founder and pastor of the Empowered Church COGIC in St. Louis, Missouri. The greatest asset to Bass’ life is his beloved wife of 38 years, Jesse Miller Bass. They are the blessed parents of three children and one grandchild. Seven years ago, the Bass family, through a random and haphazard act of violence. From the pain and scars of this family tragedy, Eddie and Jesse have emerged with renewed vigor and insight into the hurts and wounds of others, and how they thereby enhanced their capacity for ministry.

DON “BUBBA” & CINDY CATHY

Don “Bubba” Cathy is senior vice president of Chick-fil-A Inc., one of the largest privately held restaurant chains in the United States. He is president of the Chick-fil-A-Darl Hollowell concept, a family dining concept, which operates under Chick-fil-A, Inc. The concept won a James Beard Award. The concept concept is called “Flaunt’s Grill” with locations in the metro Atlanta area. Bubba joined the company in 1976 as a construction apprentice and has worked in several corporate positions before being named a corporate senior vice president and president of Dwarf Houses in 1995. Bubba is a vice president of Chick-fil-A, Inc. and serves as chairman of the board of directors of Chick-fil-A, Inc. Bubba is married to the love of my life, Cheryl, and they have two children and one grandson.

JONAS AND ANNE BEILER

Jonas and Anne Beiler were born and raised in the Amish- Mennonite community of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. During their early years, important life lessons were permanently woven into the fabric of their lives. Jonas and Anne met at age 16 and were married at age 21 and 19, respectively. Their peaceful life as newlyweds and young parents was abruptly ended when their second child, David, was born. Angela joy, who died tragically in a farming accident in 1975. Anne, in her mid-20s, found herself depressed and in the brink of suicide, and Jonas dealt apart. They remained silent partners who simply lived together and went through the motions of family life. Eventually, sought counsel and counsel. Jonas went on to provide lay counseling as a way to give back to the community. In 1988, Anne bought a concession stand at a local farmers’ market in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. The Beiler’s first outlet. Amish pies and donuts were sold. Auntie Anne’s has grown from a single outlet to more than 100 locations, employing over 1,500 people. In 1991, the Beiler opened a winery in Ephrata, Pennsylvania. Bubba is vice president of Chick-fil-A’s WinShape Foundation®.

DAVID BLANKENHORN

David Blankenhorn is founder and president of the Institute for American Values, a nonpartisan organization devoted to strengthening families and civic society in the United States. He was named to the 1994 Time Magazine’s list of the 25 most influential Americans and 1994 Newsweek’s list of the 250 most influential people in America. In 1995, he received the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship. David’s book, Fatherless America, became a national bestseller and has sold over 1 million copies. In 1997, two years after his departure as Executive Director of the National Center for Fatherhood Initiatives, he was awarded the National Fatherhood Distinguished Service Award. He is a frequent speaker on family and social issues and has written for the Washington Post, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, the Daily News, and many other publications. David is also a contributing correspondent to National Public Radio’s “Morning Edition” and ABC’s “World News Tonight.” He is a contributing editor at First Things and Christianity Today. He has been profiled by the New York Times, USA Today, C-SPAN’s Evening News and other national television programs, including Oprah, 20/20, CBS This Morning, The Today Show, Charlie Rose, ABC Evening News, and C-SPAN’s Washington Week. Blankenhorn is a regular contributor to National Review, First Things, and the Wall Street Journal.

Dr. Timothy Tee Boddie

The Reverend Dr. Timothy Tee Boddie currently serves as the senior pastor of historic Friendship Baptist Church of Allstonville, only the sixth pastor in its illustrious 146-year history. He is the immediate past University Chaplain and Pastor of the Memorial Church at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. As University Chaplain, he served in a dual capacity, as Campus Minister and as Executive Secretary of the nationally acclaimed Hampton University Ministers’ Conference. While at Hampton, Dr. Boddie was elected president of the National Association of University Chaplains, became the first African American from an HBCU to serve in this capacity in the organization’s 64-year history.

Clayton County, GA’s school board and serves on the board of trustees for Richmond Graduate University. They have six children and one grandchild.

DONALD STAPLES

Don “Staples” was born and raised in the small town of West Point, Georgia. He is an entrepreneur, author, and speaker. He has had a successful career in the restaurant industry and has been named as one of the top 50 Fastest Growing Businesses in America by the Atlanta Business Chronicle. He is also the author of the book “Staples: A Journey In Real Estate” and the co-founder of the Staple’s Real Estate Network. He is a member of the National Association of Realtors and the National Association of Black Realtors. He is also a member of the National Urban League and the National Association of Real Estate Brokers. He is a member of the National Association of Black Real Estate Brokers and has served as a director for the Fair Park Foundation. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He is also a member of the National Association of Realtors and the National Association of Black Realtors. He is also the founder of Staples Real Estate Services, a real estate company that specializes in the sale of residential and commercial properties. He is also a member of the National Association of Realtors and the National Association of Black Realtors. He is also a member of the National Urban League and the National Association of Real Estate Brokers. He is a member of the National Association of Black Real Estate Brokers and has served as a director for the Fair Park Foundation. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He is also a member of the National Association of Realtors and the National Association of Black Realtors. He is also the founder of Staples Real Estate Services, a real estate company that specializes in the sale of residential and commercial properties.
beaten actively involved in the Pro-life movement since 1983, and is the chief spokesperson for the black pro-life movement in Dallas. As such, he leads a group of black men to teach mothers from the culture of death in Dallas. As well, he is currently a principal leader in the Black Pro-life movement and is committed to their national strategy to activate the black community against the abortion industry.

Pastor Broden is convinced that the only hope for the inner city and rural areas of the United States is for the Bible Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset, New Jersey. The church is a not-for-profit, non-denominational, and non-scripture based organization, and it serves as the headquarters for the Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Somerset, New Jersey.

In 2004, he took a sabbatical from the Bench and assumed the position of District Judge in 1971. He was appointed Senior Judge Arthur L. Burnett, Sr. in 1958. In 1965, he became an Assistant United States Attorney in Washington, D.C. In 1968, he became the first General Counsel — the proud and adoring parents of one daughter.

Barbara Ciara has more than 25 years of experience as a broadcast journalist. She has won numerous community and professional honors for her work on camera and in the community. But she is most proud of her work that gives a voice to those who are voiceless. She was named an Emmy for her series “Guilty Til Proven Innocent,” and she received honors from Columbia University School of Journalism for her report on race and ethnicity.

When people refer to Barbara’s world of experience, they are talking about her work covering news as a photographer, reporter, assignment editor, producer, noon anchor, and executive producer for CBS News. She was the youngest female and first African American to achieve the management status of news director at a commercial television station in the southeast.

Although her work experience did not require it, Barbara returned to school to complete her undergraduate degree. She graduated Summa Cum Laude. She is currently the managing editor and anchor at WTVR Newschannel 3.

Arthur Burnett, Sr., is a Senior Judge for the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Prior to his appointment to the Bench, he served as a principal legal advisor to the President of the United States on all civil service and personnel laws in the United States.

In 1980, he was appointed the first African American United States Magistrate Judge. He then became the Legal Advisor for the United States Civil Service Commission and between 1977-1980, he served also as a principal legal advisor to the President of the United States on all civil service and personnel laws in the United States.

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Stephen studied Communications and Political Science at the University of Wisconsin. Originally from Wisconsin, Stephen and his wife, Eli, have been residents of Ashburn, Virginia.

BILL COPPING

Bill Collin, the Special Assistant for Marriage Education, joined the Administration for Children and Families in January 2002. Working with the ACF and the Children’s Bureau, he has had the opportunity to be part of important policy development and to shape the course of national programs. Examples include:

- Developing a national framework for implementing the evidence-based model of Early Head Start, which is now guiding policies and programs across the country.
- Assisting the ACF in developing a new set of standards for family support programs.
- Leading the development of the first-ever national training for Family Self-Sufficiency providers across the country.
- Participating in the development of the new family supports program, which will be a major part of the reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Collin is a former policy advisor to the Children’s Bureau’s and the Administration for Children and Families’ Children’s Bureau.

The Comprehensive Clinic is a multi-disciplinary mental health training, research, and clinical services center that houses several of the University of Georgia’s research and training programs. The Clinic is the site of the University of Georgia’s School of Social Work, School of Health and Human Services, and College of Education.

Dr. Crane has been an active participant in the development of the Clinic since its inception in 1995. He served as the Clinic’s director from 1995 to 2000, and he continues to serve as a faculty member.

Dr. Crane has also been involved in several other projects and activities related to mental health and social work. He has been a consultant to various organizations and has published numerous articles and book chapters on a wide range of topics, including mental health, social work, and public policy.

In addition to his work at the Clinic, Dr. Crane is also a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, a leading journal in the field of family therapy.

Dr. Crane received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1995 and his M.S.W. from the University of Michigan in 1991.

Also after the completion of Signal Captains Career Course and Combined Arms Services Staff School (CASS) in May of 2004, he was assigned to The 345th Signal Brigade, which serves as the Army National Guard Command and Control Battalion. In July of 2005, he was assigned to 160th Signal Brigade as the Battalion Commander, which serves as the Army Reserve Command and Control Battalion. In July of 2006, he was assigned to the 2nd Signal Brigade as the Battalion Commander, which serves as the Army Global Logistics Command.

Major Doherty has received the following decorations and awards:

CAROL DUFRESNE

Carol Dufresne serves as the Pastoral Associate at the Anglican Parish in the Conceptionary Office Church, in Hampton, Virginia, a mid-size congregation of approximately 500 families. As Pastoral Associate, Ms. Dufresne can be found in the pastor in providing leadership and pastoral care of the parish.

Originally from Brooklyn, NY, Ms. Dufresne moved to Virginia to serve as the Catholic Campus Minister at Hampton and Norfolk State Universities for the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. Shortly after arriving in Virginia, Ms. Dufresne was thrust into immediate service as she joined Hampton University chaplain in providing pastoral care to the students, faculty, and staff during the wake of the devastating flooding Hurricane Katrina.

Ms. Dufresne helped to establish Amache NY, a program of the New York City Mission Society. The program was developed to connect children of imprisoned parents with caring adult mentors from local congregations.

Ms. Dufresne is a native New Yorker and a graduate of Cornell University where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree. Additionally, she holds a Master of Social Work degree from Hunter College of Social Work and a Master of Theology degree from the Virginia Theological Seminary in New York. Ms. Dufresne’s commitment to children and families has been influenced by her years of experience providing care and support to children of incarcerated parents and the negative effects.

In addition to all of her professional and academic experiences, she has been in preparation for her most fulfilling and rewarding assignment to date — serving the children of people of the Good News of Jesus Christ. She is a preacher, trainer, and teacher with strengths in pastoral counseling, bereavement counseling, crisis intervention, and...
University. Before arriving to the USA, he served as the Imam of the Al-Nâsir Mosque in Tripoli, Lebanon 1975–1982.

Imam Dr. Talal Y. Ed-Darlene is an American citizen but was born in Lebanon. He is married to Mrs. Hend Ayoubi, and they have seven children and six grandchildren.

JEFFREY GARLINGTON

Dr. Jeff Gardere, better known as America’s Psychologist, is one of the most widely sought-after experts in the field of mental health. In addition to being a prominent expert, he is also a consultant to Nickelodeon Television Network and on the advisory board for websites including Disney Online’s Family.com and Melanet. Gardere has been a television personality for over 20 years and consults for psychiatric hospitals, schools, and websites including Disney Online’s Family.com and Melanet. He is married to Mrs. Hend Ayoubi, and they have seven children and six grandchildren.

LAKITA GARTH-WRIGHT

Lakita is the author of the book and curriculum, The Naked Truth: About Sex, Love and Relationships. She is a venerated and noted speaker on various issues such as teen relationship, family dynamics, love, sex, and HIV/AIDS and is one of America’s leading advocates for the LGBTQ+ community.

Lakita has testified before the U.S. Senate General and the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee in Washington D.C. on issues involving diversity and equal opportunity. She has consulted and contracted internationally on the continent of Africa and in the Caribbean to develop materials that encourage families to address race relations, politics, feminism, and HIV/AIDS in an open and honest manner.

Lakita was admitted into the Corcoran Group’s “Multimillion Dollar Club” for selling $18 million worth of property in 2007. She has been featured in Voice, Essence, Jet, The Washington Post, and BET. She has also appeared in magazines and periodicals such as Vogue, Seventeen, Vibe, Essence, and The Washington Post.

Lakita has consulted and hosted UPI’s Emmy-nominated show “The Truth About Sex,” “The Bernie Mac Show,” and “My Wife and Kids.” After attending the University of Southern California and earning a Bachelor of Science degree in less than four years, Lakita received an honorary doctorate degree from Aspen University.

Lakita is a writer, speaker, and Wright and they have one son.

JAMIE GRUBER

Jamie Gruber is the executive director of the Institute, an educational project of the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) that promotes a lifelong marriage on college campuses by creating an intellectual and social climate favorable to marriage.

Gruber holds a degree in Gonzaga University with a degree in political science, religious studies, and leadership. While at Gonzaga, Jamie was the president of the Catholic Student Campus Ministry and The Witness. She also worked with the university president on the lecture series, “Catholicism and Society.”

Jamie also works with the organization Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women (ENDOW). At ENDOW, she works as an instructor in the high school girls’ pre-college articles for “Awakening,” an ENDOW publication on that examines “politics through the lens of a woman,” and she writes a regular column on their website including Disney Online’s Family.com and Melanet. She has been married for 22 years and has ten children and two grandchildren.

JAMIE HENDERSON

Mrs. Henderson received the YWCA Virginia Peninsula Women for homeless women and children that is scheduled for completion in September 2009.

Mrs. Henderson attended Pittsburg State University, where she received a bachelor’s degree in social work and a master’s degree in counseling. After receiving her master’s degree, she worked as a social worker for the state of Kansas and as a counselor for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. She is a passionate advocate for homeless women and children. She serves on the Board of Advisors for Yorktown Board of Trustees. She serves on the Board of Advisors for the Luter School of Business at Christopher Newport University and the Advisory Board for Natasha House in Yorktown, VA, a transitional home for homeless women and children that is scheduled for completion in November 2009.

Mrs. Henderson received the VWCA Virginia Peninsula Women of Distinction Award for the devotedly hard work she has conducted in the area of Racial Justice and Civil Rights. She is a supporter of the Virginia Peninsula VWCA, and is currently co-chairing the search committee for the next executive director of the organization.

In August 2009, Mrs. Henderson celebrated 40 years of marriage with her husband, Dr. D. Henderson. They have two adult sons and two daughters-in-law.

GERARD HENRY

Every now and then, someone comes along with a fresh perspective, hitting the scene to breathe life into the world of women and their lives. One such leader is Black Entertainment Television, Inc. (BET) Gospel music video show, “10 Every Styce featuring hip-hop and soul music videos of leading Gospel Artists and Preachers in the nation. After 10 years, Gerard has graduated to launch PROSLEYHE, a gospel music video and marketing firm. As an inspirational speaker, he is known for speaking on various topics including the like of Racial Justice and Civil Rights. Gerard has a long list of accomplishments, including Civil Rights Hero, Medium, Long, CeCe Winans, Allan Houston, and Billy Blanks, published by BET.
JeFFery M. JOHNSON

Grady, his wife, Terry, daughter Baylor Leanne, son Benjamin Jeremiah,
and daughter Bria Lyn reside outside of Atlanta, GA.

RANDY HICKS

Randy Hicks is the president of Georgia Family Council (GFC), a non-profit research and education organization committed to informing conditions in which individuals, families and communities thrive.

GFC is organized into three Centers:

• The Center for Policy Studies — Working with government officials in all three branches of government to ensure that public policy in Georgia benefits families and children.

• The Center for an Educated Georgia — Helping to provide parents and their children with the best options for each child's education.

• The Center for Community Initiatives — Building local coalitions throughout the state to strengthen marriages and reduce the rate of divorce and out-of-wedlock childbirth.

Randy is regularly in demand as a speaker and commentator on family issues for local and national media outlets. He carries the message of community revitalization to civic, business and religious groups throughout Georgia and the nation.

As a longtime student of the social effects of family breakdown, Randy works with local and national policy leaders to elevate marriage, family and community development to the highest level of public policy discourse. He currently serves on the Georgia Supreme Court’s Commission on Children, Marriage and Family Law.

Randy has an extensive background in creating and leading state-based advocacy organizations. He has also served in government as an aide to the California State Senator. Randy is a native of Southern California and a Master’s Degree from the Biola University in La Mirada, California and a Master’s Degree from the Biola University in La Mirada, California.

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CarLene ALVEdA C. KING

Dr. ALVeDA C. KING works toward her purpose in life, to glorify God. Dr. King currently serves as a Professor of Psychology at the MultiCultural Family Institute of New Jersey.

She is also a voice for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, sharing her testimony of two abortions, God's forgiveness, and her fall from grace. Her goal is to help others know, understand, and implement the love of God in their lives through her ministry. Dr. King has been called a powerful voice and a beacon of hope for those who are hurting and struggling to find their way.

The daughter of the late civil rights activist Rev. A.D. King and his wife Naomi Barber King, Alvelda grew up in the civil rights movement led by her uncle, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Her family home in Birmingham, Alabama, was bombarded, as was her father’s church office in Louisville, Kentucky. Alvelda was jailed during the open housing movement. She sees the prolific movement as a continuation of the civil rights struggle.

Dr. King is a former college professor and served in the Georgia...
State House of Representatives. She is a best-selling author, among her books is How Can the Dream Survive if We Murder the Children? and I Don’t Want Your Money, Just Give Me My Child’s. She has also been an on-air disc jockey, actress, and songwriter.

The founder of King for America, Inc., Alaina is also the recipient of a Doctorate of Laws degree from Saint Anselm College. Dr. King lives in Atlanta, where she is the grateful mother of six and a doting grandmother.

GALE A. LEE

Dr. Gale A. Lee has 20 years of experience in public education as a teacher, college professor, and central administrator. She has also served on the Toledo Community College Board as a member and chair.

She began her career as a classroom teacher in Norfolk, Virginia and later served as the Coordinator of the Virginia Parent Information and Resource Center (Goals 2000 funded Initiative) prior to becoming a central administrator in the Office of Parent and Community Involvement in Norfolk, Virginia. In 2005, she became supervisor of Title I Elementary and Secondary Education in the federal Programs Office of Newport News Public Schools.

As Supervisor, Dr. Lee promotes instructional quality for the most needy students and families by monitoring federally funded instructional staff and parent involvement specialists. She implements and conducts on-going local, state, and federal program audits of the Title I Program. Dr. Lee holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees from Norfolk State University, one in early childhood education. She holds a master’s degree in elementary education and a doctoral degree in social science with a focus on urban education and leadership from Old Dominion University. She is a member of many educational and civic organizations and was most recently awarded the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. Eastern Region Citation Award for her active engagement in educational pursuits and was recently awarded the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. Eastern Region Citation Award for her active engagement in educational pursuits.

Lee resides in Hampton, VA.

TIM LEW

A national motivational speaker, preacher, workshop facilitator, and mentor, Tim Lee is the founder of One on One Mentoring, a mentoring and support program that provides opportunities for people from around the world to live fulfilling lives. He has established long and fruitful relationships in Kenya to support that goal, including a women’s children’s hospital, a tech center for young people, and a foundation working to negotiate peace in troubled regions.

Bishop Long and his cherished wife, Elder Vanessa Long, live in the metro Atlanta area. They are the stewards over four children: Eric, Jared, and Taylor. The couple has also served as surrogate parents to many other children in the church and community over the years.

ANDREW AND TERRI LYKE

Andrew and Terri Lyke are leaders in Christian marriage preparation, education, and enrichment since 1982. They have served thousands of married couples through their programs.

The lykes are the designers of the Error! Content not defined., which they publish extensively throughout the United States. They are national trainers and speakers in the Healthy Marriage Initiative, i.e., FOCUS and Exploring Relationships and Marriage with Fragile Families. They have written several national publications on Christian Marriage. Andrew and Terri regularly write for Catholic News Service. Andrew and Terri Lyke are a married couple, a founder of a Links Chapter in her home town of Oakland, California, helped establish an Akin Alley Summer Dance program at the University of California, Berkeley, and served on the Alameda County Arts Commissioner’s Public Art Committee and as a Commissioner of Fine and Performing Arts in the City of Oakland, California.

Ms. Lyons has created several effective life success modules including the renowned People Technologies and Innovations, an acclaimed motivational seminar series. The Hill With Average C-and KCEP (Kingdom Couples Enrichment Program) — a series of workshops designed for communities of faith that focus on the relationship between intra/inter personal communication and marital intimacy. Ms. Lyons corresponds regularly with many of the followers of her blogs in the area of relationship challenges and insight into developing and maintaining healthy intimate relationships. Ms. Lyons holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Hampton University, Master’s of Education from the College of William & Mary. She is married and the mother of two children.

Bob Maday

Bob Maday is a co-founder of WestScope Marriage Retreat. As a special project director at Chick-fil-A, Bob's leadership is ground breaking. He assists Bobbi Cathy in directing some of the philanthropic effort of the WestScope Foundation. Additionally, Bob leads a company division including the Training and Conference Center project and now provides direction for the advisors and board development for the WestScope Foundation.

In 2007, after 15 years of marriage, Bob lost his wife to a seven-year battle with breast cancer. Bob has since continued the work that he lost his husband to a heart attack in 2005, after 24 years of marriage. Bob and Vicki have five married children and eight grandchildren. They reside in Keswick, Virginia.

LINDA MALONE-COLON, PH.D.

Dr. Linda Malone-Colón is a clinical and personality psychologist, researcher, consultant and administrator. She is a professor of psychology at Hampton University, and the former Executive Director of the National Healthy Marriage Resource Center. Dr. Malone-Colón is a licensed psychologist, consultant and trainer of organizations of students, parents, and community leaders. She has co-authored and consultant and has authored several important publications on African American marriage and families. Dr. Malone-Colón is also a personal development and diversity consultant and presents workshops, management training and retreats for private industry and state and local government agencies.

Also, she is the Founder of a New National Center on African American Marriages and Parenting. The Center brings together Black Churches and Black Institutions of Higher Education to help strengthen marriage, parenting, and families in African American communities.
Hood Martin resides in Chicago, Illinois with her husband and her pupils the importance of incorporating meditation into their daily sound decisions. Hood Martin is also a certified yoga instructor, teaching West, Pastor/Founder. Her many activities include serving on the Baptist BA, MA, and M.Ed. Hood Martin served for ten years as the first female

Right: College Women on Dating and Mating Today.” Her next book, My Based on the first nationally-representative study of grown children of

Most importantly, she is a loving mother, daughter and sister.

Hood Martin received a master’s degree in Christian Communications from

MARGARET DISSON MARTIN

Martind Termiran is a 1967 graduate of Spelman College, where she earned the B.A. in English literature; and a 2007 graduate of the George Washington University, where she earned a second M.A. in education and human services.

Martin began her professional career in higher education as an instructor in the Department of English at Hampton University in 1989. After leaving the university in 1997 to join faculty at her alma mater, Martin returned to Hampton University in 1992 and was assistant professor in the Department of English until transitioning to the administration ranks as executive assistant to President Dr. William R. Harvey in 1998.

In 2001, Martin was appointed by the State of Maryland to marry Dr. Ulysses Martin, III, and during the 2001–2002 academic year, served as executive assistant to Bosee State University President Dr. Calvin Lowie. Since returning to Hampton University in 2002, Martin has served as acting chair of the Department of English, special assistant to Acting President Julian Haybeyt, assistant to the dean of the School of Journalism; coordinator of graduate education programs at Hampton University College of Virginia Beach, and currently as campus director of Hampton University College of Virginia Beach. Martin is a native of Hampton, Virginia and a product of Hampton City Public Schools. She and her husband are parents to one son, 5-month-old Benjamin Hampton Martin.

ROLAND S. MARTIN

Roland S. Martin is a national award-winning and multifaceted journalist. He is also a syndicated columnist with Creators Syndicate and the author of Listening to the Spirit Within: 50 Perspectives, syndicated columnist with Creators Syndicate and the

REV. JACQUE HOOD MARTIN

Rev. Jacquie Hood Martin is a full-time servant leader and “an Ordained Spirit.” An ordained minister for nearly twenty-years, Hood Martin has been inspiring women across the country with her master-of- fact teaching, leadership development, speaking, writing columns or in her book, Fulfilled! The Art and Joy of Balanced Living. Hood Martin’s focus is on developing the best out of each and every person she teaches. She is the founder of Jacquie Hood Ministries, an organization that equips and empowers people for daily discipleship and a “yielded Spirit.” An ordained minister for nearly twenty-years, Hood Martin has been inspiring women across the country with her master-of-fact teaching, leadership development, and writing columns or in her book, Fulfilled! The Art and Joy of Balanced Living. Hood Martin’s focus is on developing the best out of each and every person she teaches.

Jacquie Hood Martin, author of Fulfilled! The Art and Joy of Balanced Living, and a college dean in Chicago. They reside in Chicago, Illinois with their husband and daughter.

HEWIM “SKIP” MASON, J.R.

Herman “Skip” Mason, Jr., is an educator, historian, and community servant. He is a native of Atlanta, Georgia where he attended the Atlanta Public Schools and the State of Atlanta Morris Brown College in 1984 and the Master’s degree in Library and Information Science with a concentration in African American History from Clark Atlanta University in 1989. He also studied at the Phillips School of Theology. Currently, he serves as the Interim President of Student Services/Dean of Students and College Archivist at Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA and holds the endowed directorship as the Eudora and Herman Reyse Director of Morehouse College’s Learning Resource Center.

Mason is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and his new book, Living @ the Next Level: The Sen. Barack Obama Interview.” Martin, named one of the top 50

Based on the first nationally-representative study of grown children of

Most importantly, she is a loving mother, daughter and sister.

Hood Martin received a master’s degree in Christian Communications from
Dr. Oliver has authored or co-authored over 20 books including Professor in the D. Min. in Marriage and Family Counseling Program at Theological Seminary, a Th.M. from Fuller Theological Seminary, and he received his B.A. from Biola University, an M.Div. from Talbot University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

Mrs. Muhammad wants to create better foundations for helping those in need of marriage education services form and sustain healthy marriages. Mrs. Muhammad has collaborated with Dr. Charles Olimeda to provide marriage curricula that address the specific issues that pertain to family, immigration, economic mobility, education, mental health, at-risk youth and Christian unity. He also serves as board member and East Coast Director for the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC) an organization committed to serving the 16 million Evangelical Hispanics in the United States and Puerto Rico across generational, country of origin, and denominational lines on issues that pertain to family, immigration, economic mobility, education, political empowerment, social justice, and societal transformation.

Olimeda’s studies include Banking Institutes, Assemblies of God Institute and for identifying and securing strategic partnerships that are focused on enhancing the particular strengths and services offered is created to help people succeed in their lives and for the higher purpose in my life — God’s higher calling. Life is about choices and we must make our choices with God’s eternal values in mind.

WINTLEY AUGUSTUS PHIPPS

Born in Trinidad and raised in Montreal, Wintley attended Kingsway Academy in Oakville, Ontario. He earned the B.A. in Theology at Oakland University and a Masters of Divinity Degree from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. For his life of service he has received honors and citations including honorary doctorates from Westminster College, Thomas More College, the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC), the University of North Carolina School of Law, and the University of Florida Network “Use Your Life Award;” and Philanthropist of the Year from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. He is responsible for the opening of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in South Africa. Other select appearances include singing at the Vatican for Dr. Robert Schuller’s Hour of Power Breakfast events. On invitation from President Barack Obama, Mr. Phipps was the featured soloist at the Inaugural Prayer Service at the Washington National Cathedral. In 1984 and 1988, he sang at the Democratic National Convention while serving as Vice President of Operations at the Butler Street YMCA in Atlanta, Ga. In 1997, Merv returned to his native Norfolk and joined the YMCA of South Hampton Roads as Vice President of the newly created Community Services Branch. In 2008, the “without walls” was one of the top five branches in the country and received the prestigious Annie E. Casey Mr. Pitchford was named as the President of the YMCA of South Hampton Roads.

Presently, Mr. Pitchford is working with the YMCA of South Hampton Roads to develop leadership skills in children and youth and to strengthen families and individuals in Park’s Place Community. In addition to his service to the community through the YMCA, Mr. Pitchford has served on the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation Education East Region Board, as Vice President of the Youth Partnership of South Hampton Roads, a member of the Norfolk State University Athletic Foundation Board, and Past Chairman of the Norfolk State University Alumni Golf Committee.

Merv received the Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from Norfolk State University. He lives in Chesapeake, Virginia with his wife Sandra, and they have two adult sons.
DAPHNE MAXWELL REID
Daphne Maxwell Reid is known as Aunt Viv on NBC’s hit comedy, “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air.” She is also known for her role of matriarch Daphne Maxwell Reid on the CBS comedy series “Frank’s Place” in which she co-starred with her husband, Tim Reid. She teamed up with Tim again when she starred as Micki Dixon on “Snaps” for CBS. In 1998 and 1999, she played the kindly brisker Eweth on Mookie’s “Linc,” created and produced by her husband and shot at New Millennium Studios and its subsidiary companies. Presently, she serves on a number of community boards, including the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University. Daphne Maxwell Reid is an avid photographer and has just exhibited her first collection, “Dines,” and her next collection, “Knockers.” She is the mother/grandmother of three grown children, and the proud grandmother of three wonderful grandchildren.

TIM REID
Tim Reid, the Emmy-nominated actor, director and producer, has been a mainstay in the entertainment industry for the last three decades. He starred as “Vincent Pigott,” on the popular CBS television series “WKRP in Cincinnati.” Twice, he has been nominated for the NAACP Image Award for “Best Actor in a Comedy.” He has had many starring roles in the years over television series, films and videos. “The Richard Pryce Show,” “Simon & Simon,” “Frank’s Place,” “Snaps,” “Save Our Streets,” and the hit NBC show “30 Rock” are just a few of his credits. He has also guest starred on Fox Networks’ “That 70’s Show.” Reid has written for several of the shows he has acted, and produced several of his popular shows.

DR. GARY SMALLEY
Gary Smalley is one of the country’s best-known authors and speakers on marriage and family relationships. He is the author & co-author of over 50 books and videos, which have connected to over 12 million people. Reid is president and founder of the Smalley Relationship Center, providing research, relationship coaching, conferences nation-wide, books, videos and radio which have reached over 70 million people. He has married for 43 years and live in Branson, Missouri. They have three married children and nine grandchildren.

The Smalley Center provides marriage counseling, Changing Hearts, Changing Your Life. It provides the most practical principles on truly changing your life. Dr. Smalley’s other recent book series has broken records of 5 best-selling books in the top 20 list at one time. The Redemption Series, co-authored with Karen Kingbird, has now sold over one million copies combined.

One more new book is a valuable resource to help couples with physical intimacy and spiritual intimacy which follows the story of the biblical book, The Song of Solomon. In today’s culture couples are struggling with every area in their marriage area. He gets deep into one can send a marriage into turmoil.

The Smalley Center provides help in Branson, Missouri. The Center provides resources, relationship coaching, research and conferences on relationships with a focus on marriage. The Smalley Center provides a wealth of practical articles, assessments and a weekly newsletter to encourage people in their pursuit of help and enrichment.

RICHARD LEE SNOW
Richard Lee Snow is a native of Clarion, Pennsylvania. He serves currently as the 8th Executive Director of the National Office of the Keystone Japheth Fin itinerary, Inc.

Rich is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a B.S. in Business Management. He has additional studies at the University of Richmond School of Business. Prior to Kagha, he spent his professional career in the insurance industry. More recently, his employment experience was with CEONA Corporation, where he served as Director of Contracts & Compliance.

Richard has been featured in various media, including guest television appearances on the nationally recognized “Late Night with Tavis Smiley” show. The Philadelphia Tribune has selected him since 1999 as one of Pennsylvania’s Most Influential African-Americans. He is also the recipient of many awards, most recently named as one of the 25 Most Influential People in the Hospitality and Meetings Industry by the Philadelphia Courier Magazine. His involvements include:

NATIONAL
• Advisory Board, African-American Partnerships/Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
• Advisory Board, Washington (DC) Convention and Tourism Organization (Washington Convention Center Authority)
• Board of Regents, Leadership Transformation for Historically Black Colleges and Universities

LOCAL
• Board of Directors, Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau
• Board of Directors/Executive Committee, Multicultural Affairs Commission (MAC)/Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau
• Board of Directors, Philadelphia Jerseyshore Committee
• Immediate Past Board of Directors, Urban League of Philadelphia Host Committee
• Philadelphia Tribune 125th Anniversary Celebration Committee
• Philadelphia Magazine’s Committee to Commemorate Will Chamberlain (U.S. Postal Stamp)

Richard is married to the former Lydeen Brister and is the proud father of two boys.

JOHN L. STANLEY
In 1999, after a successful 25-year career in the YMCA, John founded The Legacy Group, a consulting and management firm that assists families, churches, schools, and non-profit organizations reduce risk, protect their wealth, and implement philanthropists and helps them navigate charitable giving. As the president of The Legacy Group, John has overseen charitable gifts in excess of $60 million from clients.

The Legacy Group, Private Asset Management Organizations’ Family Foundation, is a recognized leader in areas including charitable giving, grant making and donor consulting. This organization has created and implemented numerous charitable giving programs to assist families, churches and non-profit organizations to build their wealth and give back to their communities and organizations.

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SHAWN STOEVER
Shawn received his doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of North Texas where he was a recipient of a Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy. He currently serves as a senior director for the Winshape Foundation, a non-profit ministry of Chick-fil-A, owning Marriage, Reunion, and Youth Ministry. Prior to his role at Winshape, Shawn served as the Director of Training for the Smalley Advisory Board member and serves Camp Manitou-wish YMCA as a member of the Leadership and Financial Development Committees. He and his wife Jane have been a recognized leader at the Jesus in Ignatian Associates, a lay ministry apostolate. He and his family live in Minnetrista, Minnesota where he consults with a variety of clients on leadership issues, including articles on philanthropy and is a frequent platform speaker to students, family foundations, professional advisors, charity board members and nonprofit executives.

GLENN T. STANTON
Director, Family Formation Studies, Focus on the Family Research Fellow, Institute of Marriage and Family Canada

Glenn T. Stanton is the Director for Family Formation Studies at Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, as well as directing a major research project on international family formation trends at the Institute of Marriage and Family in Ottawa. He debates and lectures to groups around the world, including universities and churches around the country. He served the Philadelphia Tribune has selected him since 1999 as one of Pennsylvania’s Most Influential African-Americans. He is also the recipient of many awards, most recently named as one of the 25 Most Influential People in the Hospitality and Meetings Industry by the Philadelphia Courier Magazine. His involvements include:

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Richard is married to the former Lydeen Brister and is the proud father of two boys.
JARRIS LOUIS TAYLOR, JR.
Dr. Jarris L. Taylor, Jr. is a native of Baltimore, Maryland where he attended public school at Baltimore City College High School. Dr. Taylor retired from the United States Air Force in May 2005. In 2006, he returned to his alma mater, Hampton University, where he is the Associate Director for the William R. Harvey Leadership Institute and Honors College. He earned the degree of Doctor of Education in higher education administration from The George Washington University, the Master of Arts degree from The George Washington University in education and human development with a concentration in adult and continuing education, the Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampton University with honors in general studies, the Associate in Arts degree from Ball State University in liberal arts, and the Bachelor of Science degree from the Community College of the Air Force in electronic systems technology. His areas of academic interest include African-American male studies, African American military history, historically black colleges and universities, intercollegiate athletics, leadership, and mentoring.

Dr. Taylor’s commitment, dedication, and servant leadership within the Commonwealth of Virginia is evident in the following leadership positions: Chairman for the Governor’s Commission on National and Community Service; Virginia Department of Taxation Advisory Group; First Congressional District Education Advisory Board; President of the Virginia Collegiate Honor’s Council; President of the Zeta Lambda (Newspapers) Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Warren; Commander of the Southeastern Virginia Board of Directors; and President of the Yorkshire Downs Masonic Association (Homeowners).

Dr. Taylor and his wife Maria have been married for 21 years. They have two sons and one daughter.

AMY LAURA WAX
Amy Laura Wax is the Robert Mundheim Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She graduated with a B.S. from Yale in 1975, and holds an A.M. from Harvard and a J.D. from Columbia. Dr. Wax trained as a neuroscientist at New York Hospital in the early 1980s, served as a law clerk to Judge Abner J. Mikva on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, and from 1988 to 1994 worked as an attorney in the Office of the Solicitor General at the Department of Justice, where she argued 15 cases before the United States Supreme Court.


TAMARA WILLIAMS
Dr. Tamara M. B. Williams is a strong advocate for healthy marriages and, as a result, is a core member of the National University Consortium on Healthy Marriages and Families team. Dr. Williams holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Clinical Psychology from the Chinese University of Professional Psychology. She has extensive experience working with children, family, pre-marital education, drug treatment programs, special education, and incarcerated fathers. Her original research is entitled “Captured in the Dark: A Depiction of a Forced Separation” and outlines child maltreatment and the process of a child’s removal from his family of origin and his subsequent placements. Currently, Dr. Williams is writing a book on marriage that outlines the awareness associated with understanding one’s partner.

Wallace has received numerous awards and honors, including the National Distinguished Mentor Award from the Conference of Minority Public Administrators, the Distinguished Public Servant Award from the Virginia Alliance for Public Service, and the National Program Excellence Award for Innovations in Local Government from the International City/County Management Association. In his community life, he holds membership in the Beau Brummell Civic and Social Club, 100 Black Men of the Virginia Peninsula, and Omega Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, among others. Wallace is married to Mary E. Wallace, and they are the parents of three adult sons.
How do youth in today's society view marriage and family?

Youth in today's society desire life-long married love, but have been wounded by the family breakdown and the lack of good examples to model in their own lives. Overall, there is an unrealistic and overly romantic view of marriage among youth. With the entertainment business promoting the hook-up culture, there are a growing number of people who are adopting notions of alternative family structures. Because of divorce and the increasing numbers of blended families, youth are accustomed to the idea of many notions of family.

Many youth view family as a structure in which to raise children most effectively. Even people without fathers rebel against fatherlessness. Many young men want to be strong fathers and want to have a presence in their children's lives. However, because examples are few, they may not have the model necessary to endure the growing pains of being a husband and father.

What are the barriers to healthy marriages and families that the next marrying generation faces? Please include among the barriers, and families that the next marrying generation faces.

Youth may not have the model necessary to endure the growing pains of being a husband and father.

1. **Concepts:** Many in the next generation have an inaccurate concept of marriage, of themselves, and of their role in marriage due to laissez-faire family structures that have diminished the importance of marriage and family.

2. **Education:** People have bought the idea that higher-education should precede marriage. This contributes to the ever enlarging gulf between males and females where women are complaining that there are not enough “qualified” men. It also leads to infertility issues — women are most fertile during their 20 and early 30s.

3. **Money:** Youth either feel they should be established before they get married which prolongs the process, or they feel that marriage is economically beneficial by having two incomes.

4. **Economy:** Most young people look at dating, weddings, and children as a high price tag. Materialism is a huge barrier to the success of married relationships and family happiness.

5. **Welfare:** There are many parents today who grew up in fatherless households because of the requirements that made it unlawful for recipients to have a man in the house. The lack of fatherhood is associated with negative outcomes many of which perpetuate the absent father problem.

6. **Media:** The entertainment business — which has tidal pull on the minds of the young, overwhelmingly favors the hook up culture over life-long marriage. And yet this is where our youth are learning about relationships, romance, and sex. Exploring/experimenting with sex and sexuality is now normal— even homosexuality.

7. **Roles:** Gender identities are under attack. Sexual Revolution and woman’s liberation, have blurred the lines of male and femaleness. This leads to complication in marriage, when we don’t understand our roles as husbands and wives.

8. **No fault Divorce:** The easier it becomes to get a divorce, the more we see marriage as a temporary institution. When we have one hand on the door, the stability of the family deteriorates.

9. **Cohabitation:** Cohabitation is widely accepted as a good and healthy way to trial a marriage. However, social science shows no positive outcomes for cohabiting couples.

Describe a vision (from a youth perspective) for transformed marriages, effective parenting and empowered families? (What is the hope and promise for marriage, parenting and families?)

We envision for our peers a better understanding of the institution of marriage. Our hope is that we as a generation better understand the self-sacrifice and mutual benefits of marriage. This will produce homes with both a mother and a father; homes that teach children what it is to be a man or a woman; homes that foster service for one another, and the power of working together.

Our hope for empowered families is that children will be taken care of — and will grow up to be confident and secure in who they are and what they are purposed to do... that they will be contributing members of society and the world will be better because of them.

Why is it important to youth that there be a nationally organized effort to strengthen marriages, parenting and families? Why is it important for youth to be involved in this effort?

There is a national effort (unorganized or organized) to weaken marriage — there must be a national effort to strengthen them. It is essential that our efforts show youth the benefits of healthy and happy marriages. Most importantly this effort must be cool and fun to be a part of. We need to take advantage of the Medias that the youth use such as Facebook and twitter. It is also vital to our effort that youth are involved in organizing. Peer to peer support will resound louder than any adult’s voice. Youth are most influenced by their friends.

What can and must youth do to transform marriages, empower parents and strengthen families in our country? (Social change action items)

There are not enough intergenerational conversations going on. Young people need to hear real talk about certain issues to develop a more healthy view of relationships and marriage and family. There needs to be an alternative position presented against the Medias presentation for purposes of balance. To that end, some social change/action items are:

- Share their desire to succeed at life-long married love
- Get involved on their campuses to support marriage
- Fight the hookup culture by talking about the negative consequences of sexual activity outside of a monogamous marriage
- Communicate their stories of being hurt by divorce
- Rally in support of marriage
- Blog, facebook and twitter message of hope and encouragement for marriage
- Set standards for themselves on the issue of chastity
- Create habits that will prepare them for marriage (this could be expounded on)
- Downsize
- Get married sooner
Why is it important to have a nationally organized effort to strengthen marriage, parenting and families?

From a family sociologist’s perspective, marriage is a unique social good in that it links adults to children. As a social institution with prescribed norms, marriage orders society in important ways. So a nationally organized effort to strengthen marriages and families is important not just for individual families, but for society as a whole.

According to scholarship/research what is the status of marriage and family in our country?

Social scientists now largely agree — after decades of denying otherwise — that marriage and family life has declined in the last four decades. Young adults are delaying marriage longer, cohabitation is soaring, children born outside of wedlock is skyrocketing, and even the marital quality of marriages is suffering somewhat. The encouraging news is that after divorce rates soared for about three decades, they finally slowed down and even went down slightly in the last decade. Still, the percent of marriages that end up divorced remains very high.

The above trends suggest that people are thinking less about marriage as an institution and more as a private relationship between two people who love each other.

According to scholarship/research what are the barriers to healthy marriages and families? Please include among the barriers specific social and economic realities or forces affecting these institutions.

Barriers include the following:

• “The divorce culture”: The legalization of no-fault divorces beginning in 1970 affected more than just people who were in an unhappy marriage — it shaped the expectations and attitudes of an entire culture. So while young people continue to say that marriage and family life is “extremely important” to them, they’re not nearly as confident they will have stable marriages.

• Rising cohabitation. As more people become less confident about the durability of the marriage vow and marriage and sex become more disconnected, more people cohabit. But because cohabiting unions break up at a rapid rate, and children fare much better in an intact home with their biological parents, both children and adults are more vulnerable.

• “The marriage divide”: There’s a divide between lower-working class families and middle-upper class families. As factory jobs disappear overseas and technology advances, blue-collar workers have become more economically vulnerable than their white-collar counterparts — leaving their marriages and families more vulnerable in the process.

Describe what would transform marriages, improve effective parenting and empower families. (What is the hope and promise for marriages, parenting and families?)

While it’s no certainty that people will act according to the information given them, family scholars can make a modest but meaningful contribution to strengthening marriage and family life simply by doing a better job of clearly communicating their findings to religious and civic leaders, and to the general public. Scholars can point out not just the negative effects of family breakdown, but the positive goods that healthy marriage and family life can bring. For instance, do most people know that only one third of divorces occur in a high-conflict marriage? Do they know that marital status is one of the most important predictors of happiness?

What can and must academia do to transform marriages, empower parents and strengthen families in our country? (Social change action items)

• Continue to document the effects of family breakdown for children, adults, and society.
• Document the goods that healthy marriage provides for adults and children.
• Do a better job of clearly communicating these findings to religious and civic leaders, and to the general public.
What does God say about marriage and family?

What is the spiritual meaning and purpose of marriage in contemporary society?

First of all, the state of marriage can be discussed in the context of a noun, but must be lived as a verb. When according to the Book of Genesis, God decided that it was not good for Adam to be alone and decided to make a suitable companion for him, the Lord began the work of creating the institution of marriage and gave them this mandate, “Be fruitful and multiply.” In other words Adam and Eve would marry, produce offspring and they become a family. From the very beginning or in the beginning, in the second chapter of Genesis verse twenty-four, God created these conditions for man and woman: (1) leave your own mother and father, (2) join with his wife, and (3) become one flesh.

In today’s contemporary society, as it was in the days of Adam and Eve, God’s purposes for marriage and family have not changed. Marriage is still meant for the purposes of companionship and intimacy. Through the holy and sacred bonds of marriage, God through individuals continues His work of creation whereby we are given the privilege to serve the world through the holy act of marital commitment. In doing so, we create our families, honor marriage and assist in fulfilling God’s divine purposes for humanity.

What are the barriers to healthy marriages and families within the faith-based community?

In the processes of leaving the familiar, joining with another and unifying as one, the challenges of the world have seriously threatened marriage as a God ordained institution. These threats have disabled, to the point of crisis, and set up barriers to healthy marriages and families along the following lines: (1) relational connections as it relates to family ties and each member needs for safety and security, (2) open channels of communication as it relates to strong parental guidance and supervision through intergenerational dialogue and sharing from elders and the extended family as a support mechanism and (3) commitment to the longevity of the family unit with a mission to forge, strengthen and maintain healthy stable marriages and sound parenting. The faith-based families are no different than families that are not associated with a church, synagogue, and mosque or claim no religious affiliation. All families strive to survive in these times of change, transition and transformation of the American and global society.

The challenge and the goal of faith-based communities is to maintain a relevant stance towards and develop a sound action plan of education and training concerning what families in a post-modern society need to survive and flourish in order that they might pass the test of time.

Why is it important to have a nationally organized effort to strengthen marriages, parenting and families?

It is essential that a nationally organized effort assists faith based communities with the dissemination of information to pastors, counselors, teachers and laymen that will help to guide and steer the programs of faith-based education and training in priority areas. Accurate statistics and intelligence are needed so that budgets and funding can be steered to the areas of greatest need. It is important to have a national organization that would spearhead and act as a dissemination center to assist faith-based education in the areas of curriculum development and teaching. A national dissemination center would support efforts to strengthen marriages and families by increasing public awareness of the serious dilemma this nation faces in protecting, strengthening and preserving marriages and families. Through the work of church and faith-based leaders, the information generated by such scholarship can provide local congregations with current information and resources concerning what it takes to secure healthy marriages and strong families.

What can and must communities of faith do to transform marriages, empower parents and strengthen families in our country? (Social change action items)

The major role of faith-based communities in this crisis of the marriage, family and parenting is two-fold. They are to provide: (1) educational opportunities and (2) emotional support for married couples and families. In more specific terms, the faith community can address these social change items:

- Recognize and address the barriers to healthy marriages through education and training or re-education and re-training.
What is the media and entertainment industry doing to promote positive images of marriage and families?

The nation's eagerness to pull aside the curtain and be witness to the day-to-day lives of families as different (and similar) as those of Joseph Simmons (aka Rev Run) and Gene Simmons (of Kiss), the many eyes that can't pull away from the train wreck that is Jon and Kate Gosselin and their brood of eight, tell us something about why the media and entertainment industry devote so much ink, film and broadcast time to families and marriages — because we can't get enough. Boys and girls, love and marriage, family life — this is humanity's running story line, in all the ways it's told: in books, music, plays, movies, television, magazines, newspapers, and blogs. They are, reader polls confirm, topics the media is well advised to cover.

And while because they touch a deep chord in people, a chord tuned to resonate to things that are vital to our individual well-being and our collective survival. In covering them, the industries are making a sound business decision — there's a payoff in responding to consumers' needs and offering a product they're already fascinated by.

At the same time they mind their own bottom line, the media and entertainment industry return a favor to individuals and the larger society. By teasing out the story lines of other people's lives, real or concocted, the media can feed into a dynamic that helps make the job more difficult for parents who are trying to instill traditional values in their children. The liberal branch of the mainstream media, in a determination to be politically correct and nonjudgmental, has sometimes gone out of its way to portray a social trend with real negative implications — the rising illegitimacy rate — in a positive light. News and feature stories often present single mothers as victims of larger social ills, without addressing how the decisions they made — to quit school, to have children out-of-wedlock, perhaps with multiple men — put them in the predicament they're in. In the pursuit of value neutrality, the media can feed into a dynamic that helps draw women into this circumstance: a belief that they are not the agent of their own lives, and their destinies are shaped by external forces. In looking at social topics like single parenthood, the role of institutional forces such as poverty warrants attention, yet so do individual aspects such as personal responsibility. In the interests of time and sales, story lines are sometimes sanitized, truncated, distorted so much that they fuel unrealistic expectations. For example, it's doubtful that many of the young adults who are trying to reconnect with long-absent fathers find the process as lighthearted as the young bride in "Mamma Mia!" searching for the father to walk her down the aisle. Nor is it likely that the typical single mother is as abundantly adequate and effortless as her mother as played by Meryl Streep.

Describe the vision for media portrayal of transformed marriages, effective parenting and empowered military families. (What is the entertainment industry's hope and promise for marriage, parenting and families?)

We can't go back to the days when Ward Cleaver returned from the office to find the Beav at the door, June decked out in full domestic goddess garb, and a cute family crisis ready to be resolved with good humor and a short time frame. The reality that is the context for media and entertainment industry is families with two parents working or only one parent, divorce and remarriage, marriage delayed and strained by isolation, and children subject to pressures and surrounded by poverty (or affluence) that would astound the Cleavers. But the industries that communicate with the American public can better serve that public — without sacrificing sales — if they are mindful of the impact on their audience of the message they deliver on the subjects of family, parenting and child-rearing.

For example, they can strive to tell a fuller truth about the origins and implications of a low rate of marriage and a high rate of out-of-wedlock births among African-Americans. These are social trends with far-reaching implications for individuals and families, yet you find scant coverage of them in print and broadcast media. There are more documentaries on Paris Hilton and continental twins, more shows about fashion design and the making of runway models than there are about this incredibly important national issue.

Why is it important to have a nationally organized effort to strengthen marriages, parenting and families?

It may not be important to have an "organized" effort so much as it is important to have a "substantial," "sustained" and "spirited" effort to strengthen marriage and families. And that is because it will better serve our children and our communities.

Social scientists confirm what common sense tells us: the institution of marriage is not the only way, but it is an effective way to meet the physical, emotional and social needs of members of society. It provides the companionship and connection and practical and emotional help that sustains adults. It is the social institution best suited to meeting the needs of children, increasingly the likelihood that there will be adequate financial resources to care for them, that they will receive the nurturing and guidance they need, and that they won't be at risk for the correlates of the poverty that so often accompanies single parenthood: school failure, dropping out, juvenile delinquency and crime, and dependency.

Such an effort can be especially important in the African-American community. Many black girls and boys, young men and women, do not live in families or neighborhoods that can give them an up-close view of what resilient marriages and strong two-parent families look like. The lack of first-hand experience with hands-on fatherhood creates a challenge for both men who need to step up that role and women who, ideally, would expect and assist them in doing so.

Coming into this breach, the entertainment industry — especially the segment that dominates the "popular culture" — can play a powerful and productive role if it makes a concerted effort to send messages that inspire, teach and reinforce the behavior that will serve audience members well.

What can and must the media and entertainment industry do to promote healthy marriages and families in our country?

Among the things the media and entertainment industry can do is:

• Affirm the desirability and value of marriage.

• Depict marriages, in all their variety, in ways that help readers and viewers understand what makes them healthy or unhealthy and gain some perspective on how they can make their own marriages strong and gratifying.

• Illuminate the causes and consequences, on an individual and collective level, of the low marriage rate and high illegitimacy rate among African-Americans.

• Reinforce a message that the ideal place for raising a child is within a functional marriage.

• Be honest about the implications for children, women and men of single parenthood — carefully, of course, so as not to undermine the people for whom this is reality.

• Affirm the importance of fathers and explore what being a good father involves.

• Elaborate on what successful parenting looks like.
The advent of the new millennium ushered in an era of deep concern in America over the impact of family fragmentation on our culture. While marriage advocates had been sounding the alarm for years, the convergence of research and a growing atmosphere of collaboration have brought about unprecedented focus and energy on the issue. History will be the final judge, but many will agree that a movement to revitalize marriage and family in America is well underway. The challenges are staggering. In the 1980s, fuzzy research soothed the concerns that divorce was hurting America’s children and the divorce rate climbed steadily. The climbing divorce rate was joined by a declining marriage rate (cohabitation grew 14 fold from 1960 to the present) and the out-of-wedlock birth rate steadily. The climbing divorce rate was joined by a declining marriage rate (cohabitation grew 14 fold from 1960 to the present) and the out-of-wedlock birth rate soared to over 70% in some segments of America.

By the turn of the millennium, research concluded that children do best when raised by both parents in intact homes than children from single parent households).

Gatherings such as the Marriage Movement Consultation hosted by Chick-fil-A, Inc’s Bubba Cathy, in 2003, brought focus to the need for collaboration among marriage and family champions. Subsequently called the Marriage CoMission, hundreds of organizations and leaders have come together under this neutral flag to lay ideologies, logos, and egos aside to seek strategies that will work to strengthen marriage and family.

The Marriage Movement in 2009, while complex and multifaceted, has simplified its sense of direction: to stir up the desire in men and women for life-long healthy marriage, equip them to lead strong families, and raise hope-filled children. To accomplish this mission, Marriage Movement leaders have aligned strategies that will:

1. Increase the number of houses of faith that provide effective marriage and family strengthening ministry (Faith);
2. Strengthen the relational worldview presented to America’s youth at school and in youth groups to include the values essential to successful marriage and a view towards legacy through family (Youth);
3. Engage Corporate America in embracing relational wellness (personal, professional, marriage and family) as essential to human resource development and consequently the bottom line (Corporations);
4. Increase the number of films and TV programs with positive messaging and modeling of healthy marriages/relationships/parenting and strong families (Media).

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What is helping collaboration grow in the Marriage and Family Movement? We have found that there are three conditions under which collaboration thrives:

1. Collaborators have a shared sense of mission and understand that co-laboring is imperative to fulfill the mission. The mission is a “direction” (we call it “going West”), which is not to be confused with a particular route or path (strategy).
2. Each collaborator understands their role (“sweet spot”) and can enjoy being part of the whole. There is no “it” in a movement (which leads to the vertical alignment of power). Instead, collaborators can run freely in their sweet spot, fully stewarding their gifts and influences while horizontally integrating with other collaborators. Under these conditions, it is natural to eagerly champion the success of others.
3. “Relationship” trumps “transaction” and “the how” of what we do is as important as “the what” that we do.

What is the role of National Coalitions in the marriage and family movement? What is helping collaboration grow in the Marriage and Family Movement? We have found that there are three conditions under which collaboration thrives:

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What is the role of National Coalitions in the marriage and family movement? National Coalitions and Centers provide top down support for bottom up community- or city-based initiatives. They have infrastructures and central locations in which to develop and provide resources (e.g., research- and experience-based information, trained professionals, curricula, and analyses) — all of which may be utilized for community-based programming and initiatives. These national centers help to reduce redundancy and ensure coherence and coordination among coalitions. Networking, collaborative relationships, and partnerships among leaders and organizations are also facilitated through national coalitions. They do this, in part, by convening national meetings and conferences for leaders from community-based initiatives. In addition, national coalitions help to address the unique concerns of specific targeted populations. Finally, coalitions sustain the momentum of the marriage and family movement by providing a singular, national-level voice that keeps the issues in the national public sphere, thereby perpetuating their relevance and significance to the well-being of children, adults, communities, and the nation.
Sacred Bonds — Transforming Marriages, Empowering Parents and Strengthening Families

Our country is in a period of numerous crises — economic, healthcare, energy, education, etc. The crisis in the American family is another. Over the last several decades there have been significant increases in divorce, separation, children born out-of-wedlock and raised in single parent homes, cohabitation, and domestic violence. There have also been decreases in parental involvement, marriage rates, marital quality and family extendedness.

We are also in a critical moment in the history of American people of African descent. We are in a period where the zeitgeist — the spirit of the times — is shifting in the black community. There is growing recognition and acknowledgement among African Americans of the crises and unique challenges that we face at this stage of our history and of unacceptable and increasing racial disparities with regard to major indicators of quality of life such as employment, poverty rates, social and criminal justice, health, and education.

As with all Americans, one of the most pressing challenges for African Americans is the breakdown of the family. It is unacceptable, for example, that 72% of Black children are born out-of-wedlock and raised in single-parent homes. This has financial, physical health, mental health, educational, and crime implications for far too many children and adults.

There is growing recognition and acknowledgement among African Americans of the crises and unique challenges . . .
Let us examine the place where we nurture and socialize our children to have good and productive lives.

We know that we cannot expect true development, progress and empowerment if our most basic social institution — the place where we nurture and socialize our children to have good and productive lives — is in disarray or is nonexistent. Strong, healthy, loving and stable black marriages and families are the foundation for strong, healthy, loving and stable black children, communities and a strong nation.

The current crisis in Black marriages and families in some ways paints a dismal picture for the future of Black Americans. Yet, with every crisis and challenge come opportunities — opportunities to see problems and solutions more clearly:

- To see the strengths that sustain marriages and families in the midst of daunting and destructive social forces acting against them.
- To build on strengths and to excite the public not only to eliminate the crisis in marriage and families but to transform this crisis into conquest.
- To exercise our dominion over these foundational institutions and ensure that they are better than ever.

There is emerging now in our country new thoughts, new ideas, new attitudes, new leaders, new actions and a new determination and vigilance to address this crisis. More Black people are and will be standing up and standing firm to address this issue — and to address it in ways that are steeped in African American traditions of survival, struggle, progress and overcoming against all odds. This is also a tradition of personal responsibility, social justice, moral integrity, self-reliance, self-determination, and with a deep-rooted spirituality.

There is also great opportunity to strengthen marriages and families among African Americans (and all Americans) because of our deep yearnings and desire to marry and value for the institution of marriage and for family. A 2006 gallop poll revealed that most Black Americans highly desire and value marriage and family, even more than other groups.

Although the desire for marriage remains high among Black Americans, the hope for marriage and particularly healthy and lasting marriages has declined. Many African Americans, especially youth, are losing hope that healthy marriages and families are attainable goals.

Hampton University refuses to stand by and watch, as Black family disruption and hopelessness increase, without stepping forward to seize this opportunity to use our institutional and human capital and influence to help strengthen marriage and family relationships. We are confident that as we do this important work of strengthening marriages and families, the lives of African American children and adults will improve.

For example:

- Fewer Black children will live in poverty
- Fewer Black boys will be delinquent, angry and getting into trouble with the law
- Black children will have better educational outcomes — with more graduating from high school and college
- Black boys will have higher levels of self-esteem, self-confidence and self-control
- Fewer Black females will have teenage and out-of-wedlock births
- Black families will be better off economically and
- There will be lower crime rates in Black communities
On some positions, cowardice asks the question, “Is it safe?” Expediency asks the question, “Is it politic?” and vanity comes along and asks the question, “Is it popular?” But conscience asks the question “Is it right?” and there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must do it because conscience tells him it is right.

Martin Luther King

Black marriages and families are in crisis as evidenced by dramatic increases in divorce, separation, cohabitation, out-of-wedlock births, individuals who never marry, and levels of domestic violence. There have also been decreases in parental involvement, marriage rates and marital satisfaction.

Marriages and families have weakened for all racial/ethnic groups in the U.S. over the last four decades but that African American marriages and families have been disproportionately impacted.

There are some historical and current-day societal forces that affect Black marriages and families more and differently — factors associated with education, employment, healthcare and the criminal justice system.

The weakening of Black marriages has serious implications for the well-being of Black children, adults, families and communities and for society at large. It leaves African Americans vulnerable to increasing economic hardship and poverty, and to social, psychological and health-related problems.

Children are in need of mothers and fathers who love one another and love and care for them.

To strengthen black families, we will need to look at what has historically kept them strong while considering the current predominant social, cultural and environmental factors affecting all marriages and families.

Strengthening marriages and families is not the only solution to the problems that African Americans face but that it is an essential part of the solution.

Most African Americans value marriage and family and want to marry and have a healthy family.

Marriage matters and that healthy marriages provide a firm foundation for healthy men, women, children, families, and communities. Healthy marriages are the foundation for creating healthy families and thus socializing subsequent generations of African Americans.

To this end we come together to develop the National Center on African American Marriages and Parenting at Hampton University.
Culture matters and that there are some cultural differences among African American and other racial/ethnic groups that differentially affect their marriages.

Values Matter and that there is a need to identify, retain and promote values that affirm and support healthy marriages and families and help to reinvigorate marriage and other family relationships. There are many African American core values that help explain the countless examples of healthy and thriving Black marriages and families (both past and present) and attest to the resilience of African Americans.

Environment/context matters. Communities, economic and educational opportunities and resources, crime rates, healthcare, societal values, and the like are all a part of the environment and context in which Black marriages exist and by which they are affected.

African Americans must give voice to their relational problems to strengthen marriage and other family relationships.

Spirituality matters — a focus on spirituality and a practical spirituality are essential to strengthening Black marriages and families.

- African Americans or their marriages and families are inherently conflicted, pathological or dysfunctional.
- African American marriages and families are any more or any less conflicted than the marriages of other racial/ethnic groups.
- We are unable to effect change or that efforts to strengthen families are hopeless.

Therefore, we are resolved in our commitment to

- Renew Black America’s vision and hope for the institutions of marriage and families
- Increase marital satisfaction
- Increase parent involvement in the lives of their children
- Increase parenting effectiveness
- Decrease the out-of-wedlock birth rate
- Reduce the divorce rate
we
recommit ourselves to the dream of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

let us stand with greater determination. and let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make america what it ought to be. we have an opportunity to make america a better nation.

do the vision

A country where most African American children are born into intact families and raised by their married parents in loving, nurturing and safe homes and where most married African Americans enjoy loving, peaceful and stable marriages that inspire and support their personal development, empowerment and human dignity.

the mission
to strengthen families in the African American community by

1. helping African Americans gain essential knowledge, skills and other resources required for building and sustaining healthy marriages and practicing effective parenting; and

2. increasing public awareness of the status and value of healthy African American marriages and parent-child relationships and of the importance of effective cultural and societal supports for these families.
Objectives

the NCAAMP will . . .

• Conduct and disseminate empirical research on Black marriages, parenting, and families.

• Significantly increase the number of African Americans with training in marriage and family therapy and research and provide curricula in Black marriages, parenting, and families.

• Provide African Americans and those serving African Americans with current information about what it takes to have healthy marriages and to be effective parents.

• Promote values and behaviors that increase personal development (including character and personal and civic responsibility) among African American youth and young adults, while providing them with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions about healthy relationships.

• Raise awareness and foster discussion on the status and importance of healthy marriage and parent-child relationships and facilitate collaborative marriage, parenting, and family strengthening efforts among individuals and groups.

The NCAAMP will ultimately give more African Americans access to essential information, skills, and models that will help them to have healthier relationships, marriages, and families and be more effective parents and in time increase the number of children being raised and nurtured by their married parents.

Components

Research

Conducting, archiving, synthesizing and disseminating scholarly research on African American marriages, parenting, and families.

• Research briefs, reports, and peer-reviewed/academic journal articles, marriage and family trends/fact sheets

• U.S. Marriage Index

Training

Significantly increasing 1) the number of African Americans with graduate training in marriage and family and 2) the number of Americans with access to marriage and family education that specifically focuses on Black families.

• Undergraduate track and Master’s-level program in Marriage and Family

• National curricula on black marriages, parenting, and families

Resources

Providing African Americans and those serving African American populations with current information about what it takes to have a healthy marriage and family and access to resources that might help them to have healthy marriages and families.

• Information brochures, pamphlets, reports that target a lay audience, including black churches (members and pastors)

• Center website

• Social networking

• Sunday school, and Bible study curricula that focus on Black marriages, families, and relationships

Youth

Promoting values and behaviors that increase healthy personal development, including character and personal and civic responsibility, among African American youth and young adults, while providing them with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions about healthy relationships, including skills and knowledge that can help them eventually form and sustain healthy marriages and families.

• Information brochures, pamphlets, reports that target teens and young adults

• Youth section on website

• Social networking

• Youth Relationship Conference

• Personal and relationship-development mentoring program

Public Awareness

To raise awareness and foster discussion on the status and importance of marriage and family and facilitate collaborative marriage and family strengthening efforts among individuals and groups.

• National Marriage, Parenting and Families Summit

• Outreach and collaborations with faith-based communities primarily through the Hampton University Ministers’ Conference

• Media campaign
THE NCAAMP WILL COLLABORATE WITH PARTNERS AS IT DEVELOPS AND IMPLEMENTS PROGRAMS.

Partners to date are:
- The Hampton University Ministers Conference
- The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
- The National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
- Howard University Department of Psychology
- The Institute for American Values
- Urban Ministries Inc.
- The Marriage CoMission

PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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<tr>
<th>Hampton University Administration and Staff</th>
<th>The Hampton University Ministers Conference</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. William R. Harvey</td>
<td>Howard University Department of Psychology</td>
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<td>Bubba and Cindy Cathay</td>
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<td>The Marriage and Family Foundation</td>
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<td>Bishop Eddie L. Long</td>
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<td>Bishop Courtney McBath</td>
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<td>Rev. Jacqui Hood-Martin</td>
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SUMMIT STEERING COMMITTEE

| Robert Hill                        | Christine Simone                           |
| Leona Johnson*                    | Bill Thomas                                |
| Jack Kemp                         | Brad Wilcox                                |
| Jeff Kemp                         | Michelle Woods Jones*                      |
| Andrea Lee                        | Jeffrey Wright                             |
| Paula Parker-Sawyers              | Tamara Williams*                           |
| Darlene Powell Garlington*        | *Denotes Core Coordinating Team Members    |

OFFICE STAFF

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<tr>
<th>Michelle Dail</th>
<th>Bridgett Brown</th>
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PLANNING COMMITTEE

| Barbara Inman       | Kevin Ricks    |
| Angela Nixon-Boyd   | Damon White    |
| Alison Phillips     | Zakiya “Zee” Hyman |
| Jason Portell       | Mellen Streets Graphics |
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